

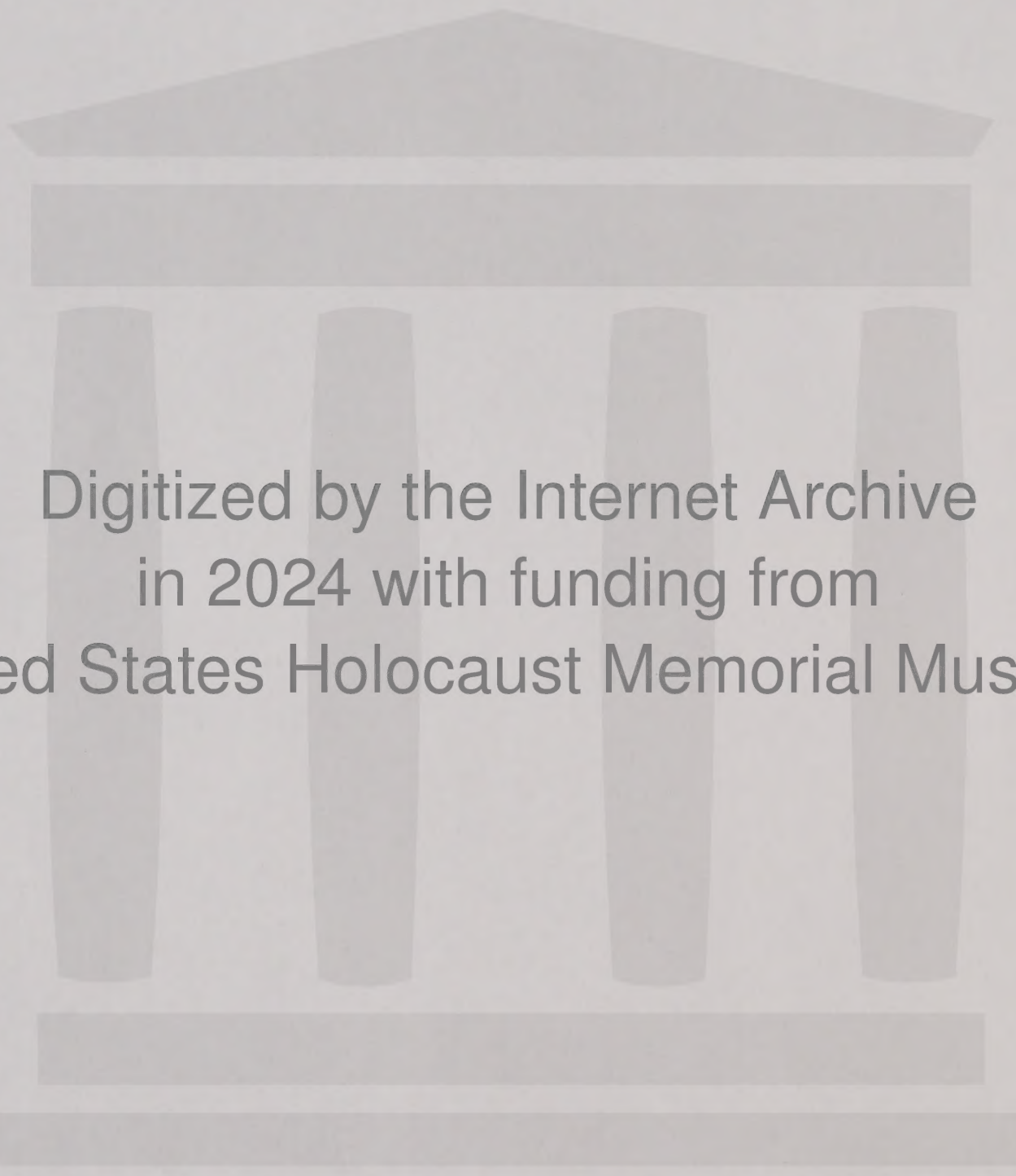


ועידת התביעות
Claims Conference
Conference on Jewish Material Claims
Against Germany

Claims Conference Holocaust Survivor Memoir Collection

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My First Boyfriend

My name is Agnes. I was born in the city of Kosice, Czechoslovakia. I came from a middle class family. When I turned sixteen years old, I was blossoming into an attractive young woman. One of my brother's friend became interested in me. His name was Paul. He was very handsome and intelligent. There was a special integrity about him. He made me feel that he would protect me from all evil. On our first date, we went for a long walk to an old park named "Redo". We talked about our families and our favorite pastime, "The American movies. We went to see "Intermezo" with Ingrid Bergman and Leslie Howard. After the movie, we would go to our favorite "Caffe Exspresso". We would have some life sandwiches and coffee. We always met some friends there.. Paul was very loving toward me. We enjoyed each other's company. He also came from a big family. His younger sister Isabel went to Gymnasium with me.

Isabel kept telling ^{me} ~~me~~ that her brother talks about me in a very complimentary way.

I told my parents about Paul and asked them to invite him to my upcoming birthday party. I can still see the room the party took place. In the dining room of our house. With the groupings

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My First Boyfriend

of tables and chairs. The wall on the right side, had a floor to ceiling Hatch. You could see Rosenthal china service for twelve. A silver chalice, the Hanukah Menorah, as well as a Havdalah silver pieces used with spices, the signal the end of Sabbath. Persian rugs on polished parquet floors, added colors to the room. The rest of the room contained original landscape paintings. At the party many of my friends feasted on open faced sandwiches. Then c deserts, creamed pastries, that came from an elegant pastry shop the Espresso". We also had a birthday cake. Of the gifts I received the most memorable was, the red carnations and a box of chocolate candy, presented to me by Paul. He was very welcome by my family and friends, and I was proud of him. On our next date Paul told me, how much he enjoyed meeting my family and friends. He real liked the party. On our consecutive dates, Paul talked about our future. When we both blurted out at the same time, "We dont have a future." Paul made me realize that we lived under a fascist goverment in a land-locked country. As I became aware of the world around me, I realized that we do not have any future, I burst into crying and could not stop.

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It was Spring of 1944. The weather became nicer. I looked forward to bike rides with Paul. We went to ride in nearby villages. We stopped on the way home to gather wild flowers and bring them to my mother. She was delighted, she loved flowers very much. Paul and I had the best time. Every hour was a gift for both of us.

It was still spring when the German invasion of our country took place. It seemed that our life changed overnight.

One of the first commands was, that all military age young Jewish men had to register to work in Labor Camps. They all were naive and law obedient. Paul registered, and shortly thereafter they took him to an undisclosed place. We never heard of him again. After the war ended, I did everything to find Paul. I corresponded with his sister Isabel, who was trying desperately to find him, but to no avail. I was broken hearted. It took me a long time to fall in love again.

